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TO (Agency)

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REMARKS:

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THREAT ANALYSIS GROUP

~~SECRET~~

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November 12, 1985

VISIT OF SECRETARY OF STATE
GEORGE P. SHULTZ
TO CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

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DECL: OADR

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**Visit of Secretary of State
George P. Shultz
to Cartagena, Colombia**

(C) Based on information available to TAG, there is no direct threat to Secretary Shultz during his upcoming visit to Cartagena, Colombia to attend the OAS Conference. However, the overall security environment for Americans in Colombia at this time is very precarious and the potential threat to the Secretary is considered high. The following projections can be made relative to this visit. (DECL: OADR)

1. Possibility of anti-U.S. protests/demonstrations during the visit - HIGH
2. Possibility of a terrorist attack against the Secretary during the visit - HIGH
3. Possibility of a terrorist attack against local dignitaries or other visiting dignitaries with whom the Secretary will meet during the visit - HIGH
4. Possibility of a physical attack against the Secretary by a mentally unbalanced individual - ALWAYS POSSIBLE, BUT TAG FILES INDICATE LOW
5. Presence of indigenous anti-U.S. terrorist groups in the country - YES
6. Frequency of anti-U.S. incidents (major protests, bombings, threats, etc.) in the country - HIGH
7. Anti-U.S. sentiment in the country - MODERATE
8. Capability of police and protective services - GOOD

THREAT ANALYSIS

(C) Security concerns for U.S. interests in Colombia stem from the political terrorism and criminal violence that is present throughout the country. Americans face a threat which is rapidly intensifying from Colombia's leftist terrorist groups, all of which are anti-U.S. in attitude. These groups have carried out attacks against Americans in the past, and anti-U.S. plotting and actions by leftist terrorists are expected to continue. In addition, threats to U.S. interests by Colombian drug

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traffickers have added another significant dimension to the security situation for Americans. While drug-related criminal activity against the United States has not been unknown in the past, the extraditions of Colombian drug traffickers in early 1985 to the U.S. and the strong support the U.S. Government gives to Colombia's anti-narcotics program have increased the potential for reprisals against U.S. interests by elements of Colombia's drug mafia. (DECL: OADR)

(C) This two-fold threat against U.S. interests in Colombia which during the last year has varied in intensity with the drug traffickers presenting the greater threat during the first half of the year and the guerrillas presenting the greater threat in the second half, may have merged to some extent with the recent M-19 terrorist attack on November 6, 1985 against the Colombian Palace of Justice in Bogota. During this attack approximately 35-45 heavily armed M-19 guerrillas entered the palace through the basement in a truck loaded with food to support a lengthy stay. Initial reports indicated 500 individuals were held hostage most of which later escaped. However, at the conclusion of the 28-hour hostage/barricade incident, 88 persons were dead, including 12 of the nation's 24 Supreme Court justices, 13 military and police personnel, all of the terrorists (about 40) and many civilians. The dead terrorists included three "commandantes." (DECL: OADR)

(C) This latest M-19 attack is significant for many reasons. The attack itself and a fire which, according to Colombian sources, was set by the guerrillas, destroyed many of the archives, including many documents related to narcotics traffickers and U.S. extradition requests. Embassy reporting indicates that Colombian Justice Minister Enrique Parejo stated on November 8 that "Everything indicates that there is a very close connection between the criminal acts which were carried out against the Supreme Court of Justice and the activities of the narcotics traffickers." The apparent collusion of M-19 and the drug traffickers represents a formidable alliance capable of presenting a serious security threat to both Colombian and U.S. interests. (DECL: OADR)

(S/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT/NOINTEL/ORCON) That M-19 suffered major personnel and leadership losses during this latest attack is unquestioned. Whether they will step back from terrorist activities for a period of time to re-group or, on the other hand, become more bizarrely dangerous as they desperately try to recoup their status as a major guerrilla force remains to be

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seen. Current intelligence reporting indicates that Colombian military intelligence anticipates additional major terrorist assaults possibly "suicidal" in nature. In addition, further reporting indicates M-19 intends to launch a major military attack in Bogota during the week of November 10-16, 1985. According to M-19 leaders in Bogota, the upcoming attack would be an all-out assault designed to cause as much damage as possible. M-19 leaders indicated that some of the weapons used in the attack on the Palace of Justice had been recently supplied by Libya and that they had large stocks of Libyan-supplied weapons remaining. (DECL: OADR)

(LOU) In addition to these reports of planned M-19 activity, other information indicates that the major Colombian guerrilla groups, with the exception of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (PARC) which is the only group still honoring the cease-fire agreement with the government, have formed a guerrilla alliance to coordinate attacks and anti-government of Colombia activities. Recent terrorist activities throughout the country which have targeted military, civil and private Colombian targets as well as diplomatic and commercial U.S. targets in both major urban areas and rural areas, underscore the ability of the guerrillas to operate in the country at large. (DECL: OADR)

(C) This factor is of particular concern in connection with the upcoming visit of the Secretary to Cartagena, Colombia. Although Cartagena has not been an area in which the guerrillas have been active, it is a major transit point for drugs as well as a center of drug trafficking activities. While there is no information at this time to indicate any such planned activity, it is possible that the Colombian drug mafia could, either unilaterally or in conjunction with Colombian guerrillas, attempt to perpetrate an attack against the Secretary who certainly represents an attractive symbolic target. (DECL: OADR)

(C) A further security concern is the security threat to the OAS Conference itself as well as the individual threat situations of each attending dignitary. The personal threat to Secretary Shultz is certainly enhanced by his proximity during the Conference to other Conference participants, some of whom would be considered desirable targets in their own right. (DECL: OADR)

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